



## **Start of Grete Rothschild Finkelstein Collection**

**AR 25073**

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Summaries / Translations

Undated

**Grete Rothschild Finkelstein Collection (AR 25073)**

*Summaries/translations by John and Eva Englander*

FOLDER 1: Genealogical information

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FOLDER 1: Genealogical information

FOLDER 2: Letters from Irma Baer (nee Rothschild) and her mother Rosa in Germany to her sister Rita and her husband Martin Loewenberg as well as other relatives in New York; 1939-1941

Irma letter of 5 Dec '39: Complains of no mail for 3 months from husband Martin in Shanghai. Says she received advice only from a friend that Martin was in the hospital, recovering from an intestinal Chinese sickness.--- You can imagine my worries, particularly about someone all alone in a strange world, dependant on the kindness of strangers. . Writes about her Worries about uncertain emigration and being at a loss on what to do ---- Also implores the recipients of the letter (apparently American family) to Procure affidavits for mother Rosa

Irma letter of 30 March '40: Writes mainly about obtaining affidavits for Herself, husband Ludwig (Shanghai) and son Walter. Mentions also that Ludwig is now gone from home more than a year; and that Walter is now in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and the second best in his class.

Irma letter of April 2 '40: Writes to Rita and Martin in New York about More complications with paperwork for emigration, which has to be handled separately for herself and Walter on the one hand and Ludwig (Shanghai) on the other.

Irma letter of April 28 '40: Complains to Rita and Martin that they apparently Have not received her five last letters and wonders whether a telegram she Sent them through travel Bureau Lindeman arrived? Also reports that she is now also making efforts to facilitate her mother's emigration to Palestine.

Irma letter of May 20, '40: Writes Rita and Martin about her pleasure learning that The 5 wayward letters and the Telegram finally arrived and devotes the rest of the letter to expressions Of thanks for the efforts undertaken by Rita and Martin. Also asks them to let her know on which date they sent the needed papers to Stuttgart (American Consulate).

Irma letter of May 30 '40: Tells her NY relatives that she heard from Stuttgart that the needed papers were now received and are being reviewed.  
Also reports that mother Rosa is OK and has given her (Irma) a letter to be forwarded To Rita and Martin. Instead, Irma quotes contents of that letter as follows: Received your postcard of Feb 4<sup>th</sup> and am happy to have good news from you, Irma always keeps me up-to-date about you. I thank you for doing so much For Irma. Dear Rita, please find out whether you could possibly requisition (?) Me? (to speed up immigration). Love, Mother.  
Irma letter of June 14, '40: Long treatise, again about the immigration papers now is Stuttgart for the whole family, including Ludwig from Shanghai. Worries about invitation from the Consulate in Stuttgart and also whether the papers that Stuttgart has will prove sufficient or not. Also worries about Future of mother who seems to be trying everywhere to find an immigration Possibility. Inquires about well-being of Erna and Uncle Max (apparently American relations who were mentioned now and then in connection with Affidavits.)

Irma letter of Aug. 13 '40: Writes Rita and Martin about multitude of problems, Mainly with American Consulate Stuttgart, which tells her of some kind of mix-up which she doesn't understand. Sought assistance from "Hilfsverein" Which counsels patience since, in their words "Things at the Consulate are not moving that fast". Irma also throws out the possibility of seeking more help from The Chicago relatives. Irma tells Rita that she received a letter from Hilda in Chicago as she (Irma) had asked Hilda to speak on her behalf to Uncle Max (Chicago), in case she would need in addition to the papers that Martin and Rita supplied, still additional support papers or a trust fund. As Hilda writes, the dear Uncle is ready to help. Irma says that as soon as she has some clarification from the Stuttgart Consulate She will relay all particulars to them (Rita and Martin) and to Hilda and Uncle Max (Chicago), so that God willing a step forward can occur. Further tells Rita That the latter never informed her (Irma) of the details of the affidavits Given to her by Rita and Martin and Uncle Leopold, and asks that this be done Now----- There follows a postscript from mother Rosa Rothschild reading: My dear children: Why have we not heard form you in such a long time? Irma has reported just about everything – too bad that Ludwig is also letting us wait so long (with mail). Dear Rita, why are you not contacting Alwin? ----- With all my love, Mother

Irma letter of Sept 18 '40: Essentially repeats and amplifies on contents of Her prior letter of Aug. 13<sup>th</sup>. Asks Ludwig and Rita to discuss possible further Steps with several people (not previously identified) as well as possibly a Lawyer, all in an effort to facilitate progress. Also says that the mix-up at The Stuttgart Consulate persists and that she is not receiving any clarifications despite her having written direct to the Consul himself.  
Irma letter of Sept 2 1 '40: Writes to Uncle Max in Chicago about family news As well as her own lack of progress with her emigration, particularly the Problem with the mix-up of papers at the Stuttgart Consulate, which remains at status quo.



Irma letter of Oct 30 '40: Writes to Uncle Max and wife in Chicago that husband Ludwig (Shanghai) reports being in good health again but has not succeeded in Obtaining an entry permit (to China) for her so far – He is making attempts in that direction since emigration to USA is now so difficult. Irma reports having at long Last received word from the Stuttgart Consulate that their support papers as well as those supplied by Rita are deemed insufficient, mainly because of insufficient income on The part of the sponsors ----- Says she is at a loss on what to do now. Bemoans her being left all by herself (apparently mother has since departed) and says everything would be so much easier if all of them could only be together. -----

Irma letter of Oct 31 '40: Writes to Rita and Martin essentially the same as she wrote in her letter of the day before to the Chicago family. Only adds that she has cabled to Chicago with the request to transmit a deposit of \$400 to Ludwig in Shanghai to improve husband Ludwig's chances of obtaining a Chinese entry permit for her. Says that further cable exchange ensued evidencing Chicago family's willingness to help, but asking further questions. Also deplores not having any news from her Mother.-----

Irma letter of Nov 16 '40: Reports to Rita and Martin about certain changes: Mother has moved and Irma does not yet have her new address. Asks Rita to write her instantly should she get that new address. And now comes an extremely urgent request: As mother, despite a high waiting number, might have the chance of preferential Immigration to the USA, please prepare affidavits of support for mother giving Explicit declaration that mother's support will be secure to the point of being able To live with them in their home. Tells Rita only to get these papers ready but not yet to send them until notified to do so.

Irma letter of Dec 2 '40 Writes Rita and Martin from Cologne where she has gone to seek help from the "Hilfsverein" which proved unable to be of assistance, saying that Ludwig would have to obtain Chinese entry permit locally; but would need some dollar funds. Therefore, she asks Rita to arrange matters by cable exchange, as Rita and Martin have apparently indicated being prepared to carry out the request. Asks again whether they have received word from their mother? Concludes with expressions of humble thanks for all assistance.

Irma letter of Dec 29 '40: Is largely a follow-up to letter of Dec 2 asking whether any of the requests therein have been fulfilled? Writes of a further complication, namely that transit trip via Siberia now also requires hard currency and expressing hope that "Hilfsverein" can defray that. Expresses frustration that all her efforts so far have been futile but is prepared to place her fate in the hands of God. Points out that husband Ludwig is now gone 2 years and that her dearest wish is to get mail from her mother along with her address.

Irma letter of Jan. 25 '41 plus two undated letters evidently of same period: Irma keeps asking Rita and Martin whether they received all her letters and telegrams and whether the requests expressed therein have been carried out? She does acknowledge Receipt of a cable wherein Rita and Martin express willingness to send dollars to Ludwig (Shanghai) and in fact has already been looking for Ludwig's reaction. So far, no such news. Also

reiterates her approaches to Uncle Max in Chicago without Hearing back from him. Wonders whether he even received all her cables? The main piece of news in this particular correspondence is receipt of mother's new address: Mrs. Rosa Rothschild, Camp des Gurs (Bases Pyrenees), France, Ilot M. Barague 16. Now urges Rita/Martin to send quickly whatever they think will be useful to mother. Also reverts to Uncle Max (Chicago) and voices inability to understand His negative attitude, saying, "we would after all reimburse him, but that is how Americans frequently act". Finally, Irma becomes increasingly desperate and even a little mixed up with all her requests, actions and needs. Irma letter of Feb 2, '41: Tells of her pleasure to learn that Martin and Rita received mail from mother and that they have sent her various things. Irma says she unfortunately cannot do that. Thanks Rita for speaking with Eddi (?), because the better the affidavit the faster mother will be able to come to the US. Expresses hope that Albin (?) can do all the necessary in Chicago and wonders about the reason for his coming to Chicago. Hilde (?) wrote Irma that she made efforts for her (Irma) with Uncle Max who says he must first finish his balance sheet in January and then he will send the papers here to her and for Ludwig in Shanghai. You might have heard that things in Stuttgart are now moving a little faster and if not for that, Irma would lose all chance to come to USA. Also mentions renewed contact with "Hilfsverein" which however counsels it would be best for sponsor (Uncle) to supply a letter of credit – will he do that? Other than that, Both the Uncle and husband Ludwig in Shanghai must furnish a statement (whose wording hopefully can be supplied at the issuing offices) and which must be officially stamped to the effect that Uncle and Ludwig respectively agree to have Irma and Son Walter by themselves immigrate to the USA. Re Shanghai, things remain in state of flux. Irma says verbatim: It seems that my cable to Ludwig of Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> did not reach him, as he makes no mention of it in his letter of Dec 26<sup>th</sup>. And that is how come you have not heard from him.

Irma letter of Feb 23 '41: Addresses Rita and Martin plus all the rest of the family to announce with unspeakable sadness that poor mother has passed away. Says every Sort of nice and thankful thing about her and hopes she will rest in heavenly peace. Finds it difficult that life has to take its inevitable course. Regrets that items still Sent by Rita to mother were now returned as they still might have been of some Help. Finally acknowledges receipt of Rita's letter regarding Panama, but says that this is now no longer possible. Now has s further request of Rita, namely that – should things happen successfully in Stuttgart -- Irma will need to book passage and asks Rita to Supply the necessary dollars. Makes many excuses for her many requests.

Irma letter of Feb 23 '41: Writes to her brother Max and his wife Clara in Paraguay Notifying them of death of their mother. Tells Max she wishes that her husband Ludwig had listened to him – if so they would now all be together (presumably Paraguay) and regrets things turned out otherwise. Also mentions that Ludwig is well enough, but still without any papers (for emigration).

Irma letter of April 6 '41: Converses further with Rita and Martin about loss of mother and her continued sadness. Thanks them for having deposited for her and Walter with The Joint in NY \$700 for ship's passage of which she was notified by the Hilfsverein. Reports going immediately to travel bureau to book passage, but learned that They are



not accepting further bookings as ships are all booked out till end of October And beyond. Says she received from Ludwig the necessary statement of agreement for her and Walter to travel to US, but wonders whether that will now still be of use. The permit for China (for Irma) is still pending and can only be obtained after Ludwig gets the necessary dollars. Ludwig had asked Rita and Martin for same and is now awaiting their reply.

Irma letter of May 4, '41: This is a long letter to Rita and Martin in NY, ruminating Again on the death of mother and on who in the family has by now been notified And who not yet. Eventually Irma gets back to the same old problems: Steamer tickets for America are only available for Feb. '42 so that at the moment nobody has a chance To travel so that Irma is deliberating whether her better chances would be with Going to Shanghai? In that connection she wonders what Martin and Rita have done about sending dollars to Ludwig in Shanghai? These dollars are also needed by Ludwig To obtain the necessary paperwork to allow transit through Russia and Japan en route to Shanghai. Complains (correctly) about things by now being in such flux that it is practically necessary each day to modify planning.

Irma letter of May 18, '41: This letter to Rita and Martin starts out a little more hopefully: Irma reports that she now received the (supplemental) affidavit documents From Uncle (Max). Actually, She had thought that Uncle would send these directly to the Stuttgart Consulate, but as it is, she is now going to the Hilfsverein in Cologne to have them determine whether the documentation will now pass muster. Furthermore, Irma expresses hope that husband Ludwig in Shanghai also received from Uncle Max the necessary supplemental affidavit papers for USA immigration. This letter also Devotes itself to news about sundry other family and friends who have partially been mentioned (without further identification) in prior letters. The names Irma Mentions in this connection are: Selma, Uncle David, Aunt Jette, Nanni and her father, Heinrich, Herman, Aunt Lina. In a PS Irma says she had word from the Hilfsverein That the supplemental papers seem in order. And she will now send them immediately to Stuttgart.

Irma letter of June 10 '41: Irma wonders whether Martin and Rita received her telegram whose text she quotes as follows: "Issuance of visas at Stuttgart only possible on furnishing proof firm steamer booking. Please try booking at y our end through Travel Bureau Zaro-tours in New York and report result to travel bureau Lindeman in Cologne and also cable results to me. Ship booking through Hilfsverein takes too long". There follows a highly complicated account how things could work out through that channel, but again it would be a matter of more dollar payments, this time \$300 to Travel Bureau Zaro in NY. After all this, Irma says she still has not heard from the Stuttgart Consulate whether the supplement affidavit documents are OK. Additionally, Irma writes that she also contacted an additional travel bureau, namely Hapag in Cologne and reportedly it might be possible to obtain passage booking for October if \$300 per person were remitted to Hapag in NY. Irma refers to the fact that Rita and Martin already paid dollar funds to the Joint and in order to get these released A further complicated procedure would have to be undertaken. Irma is making no direct request that this alternate channel be pursued, but ends up saying: "Just please to something to achieve results"

Irma letter of July 14, '41: Tells Rita and Martin the bad news that the Stuttgart Consulate rejected Uncle Max's supplemental affidavit documents on grounds that Uncle Max is of advanced years. Also tells them that she again went to Hilfsverein Cologne where she got further bad news: According to new U.S. rules it became necessary as of July 1, '41, for the sponsor to file a new registration on new forms. Irma says she therefore cabled Uncle Max to please file such new registration in Washington. Expresses hope that Hilda (Max's daughter?) may be of assistance. Will also send Max and Hilda a confirming letter with more clarification. Now follow expressions of praise for the apparent reports of Martin and Rita that they have such a solid marriage and also for their being so good to her (Irma). Finally expresses assumption she previously mentioned (Ed note: She did not) that she would move, apparently to a new street address also involving work.

Irma letter of Aug 17 '41: Again to Rita/Martin: Reports that she has not heard from husband Ludwig in two months and is ready to despair. Inquires about brother Max and wife Klara in Paraguay and regrets not having heard from them directly. Says she and son Walter would join them immediately in case they could help them get there. Now Reports receiving letter from the Hilfsverein reading as follows: "Joint in New York Requests authorization to refund the dollars you have remitted back to them. I have just completed the necessary form and am sending it to Cologne so that you will once more have us of these funds as soon as possible. Suggests that then perhaps Rita and Martin could help Ludwig in Shanghai, but they themselves would have to be in touch with Ludwig, as current conditions do not allow connection to Shanghai. Irma now also inquires whether the refund of the funds from the Joint was requested by Rita/Martin or was that an initiative of the Joint itself? Repeats her sorrow about being the only one left back to fend for her.

Irma letter of Aug. 25 '41: Reports to Rita and Martin that there was briefly a new way of emigrating, namely via Cuba, but that this opportunity has already become obsolete and moreover was very expensive. Irma asks whether Rita/Martin perchance heard from her husband Ludwig, and hopes to receive good news from him herself. Mentions that she heard today about large new steamer being scheduled to sail from Barcelona To Buenos Aires in hope of reaching North America from there. Urges Rita/Martin to be on the lookout for any further possibilities and also whether they know: Did Uncle Max register for the new papers for her? Also mentions having much work with move to new apartment. Says that nowadays she is really grasping for any straw.

Irma letter of Sept 7 '41: Continues to express hope for early emigration but at the same time expresses doubts about that possibility. Had news from Hilda (Chicago) that our Uncle will take all necessary steps for me (and Uncle Isidor) as soon as the new regulations come out. Says that her patience is wearing thin but will write Uncle Max her thanks, as she knows he is very particular about that. Tells Rita of a renewed move to a room which she has with a Mrs. Baehr and only hopes for continued good health. Now goes to lengths to send good wishes for the Jewish Holidays to each and every relative within the reach of Rita/Martin. . The letter then continues with a portion addressed to brother Max and wife Clara in Paraguay who seem to be prospering there. Reports that son Walter continues going to school in Cologne and that he will soon be eleven. Again



asks Max whether there are no possibilities that he could help her and Walter get a chance of immigrating to Paraguay.

Irma letter of Oct 5 '41: Expresses regret that Rita had gotten so excited about her last letter, but justifies her writing by pointing out that all looks very dim and she is near despair. Mentions that "they all now live together" (meaning that Jewish people are forced to share quarters in so-called "Judenhaeuser") Now mentions a new way by which to reach USA, namely via Cuba again, but it requires so many dollars that She is afraid to mention the amount. But she has another idea: Would it not be possible to obtain a loan from the Hilfsverein or Jewish Women's club or "Chevre" in NY? Says she would repay or she will work it off when she gets there. Asks Martin/Rita to inquire Intensively in NY and to contact all of the relatives living in the US – especially Uncle Max and Hilda in Chicago. Says that the money for Cuba is to defray living costs And that she would not have to stay in Cuba long, so not all of the money would be lost. Now reports that she received a few days ago a letter from husband Ludwig dated July 2, '41, the letter having been enroute 3 months and routed via the USA. Ludwig Says he is well but unhappy about still remaining alone, with no prospect of having Her (Irma) join him. Irma says he blames her, but points out she could not travel as long as she did not have the necessary permits. Reports reading in Newspapers that a new way to get to Ecuador via Buenos Aires has been found, supposedly cheaper Than Cuba; and repeats her request that Rita/Martin should make inquiries and Report back to her. Also wonders whether they ever received the refund of the dollars from the Joint?

Irma letter of Oct 25' 41: This letter is to husband Ludwig, acknowledging his letter of July 30 '41. And expresses satisfaction about his well-being, yet also takes him to task for scolding her for not doing enough (to join him), while he should take into account all the running around she has done without missing any possibility. Says his harping on this seems to indicate a feeling of guilt on his part and if he had managed to send her a permit things would have turned out different. Tells Ludwig that several friends are now "departing" and hopes they will not meet the same fate as her late mother. Mentions the possibility that she and Walter might also be going the same way as above-mentioned friends. . There follows another paragraph written by Ludwig's mother, urging him to leave no stone unturned to get the permits for Irma and Walter to join him.

Irma letter of Oct. 25'41: This letter is to Rita/Martin, following up on all the matters Brought up in previous letters to which Irma has not received any response. Then goes on with lots of family news (Uncles, Aunts, etc). Goes on to mention (casually) that She received letter from Ludwig with satisfactory news. Seems to realize that she has at least missed the boat.

Irma letter of November 9 '41: Letter is again to Rita/Martin. A full handwritten Translation (made by others) is already attached to the original.

Ed Note: At the end of Folder 2 there are two undated letters written in whole or in part by Irma. The first of these must be from early on, as it still mentions husband Ludwig

being home with the family. The second one deals with all the familiar subject matters mentioned in many of the other letters that have been described.

FOLDER 3: Letters from Ludwig Baer in Shanghai; 1940

Ludwig letter of M Letters from Ludwig Baer in Shanghai; 1940 arch 17, '40: Translation in excerpts follows: Thanks for your letter, glad to see you are well which I can also report about myself. With my health I am now satisfied, but not with anything else. It is very difficult to succeed in business in Shanghai – earnings are small and costs high. It is difficult to do business with the Chinese-----Now, dear ones, many thanks for the dollars, you did me a great favor. For if one is so alone and sick, one is aware of the cost. ---- From here, some people travel very week to America. -----I am missing much mail; as it happens the newspapers reported that two weeks ago a steamer sank and all the American mail with it. -----

Ludwig Letter of May 2, '40: Translation in excerpt: Last week I got your letter which I was happy to receive. With my health I am satisfied, but that is about all. Now, my dears, especially to you dear Rita; I send my sincere sympathy on the loss of our dear mot her. - ---- When I learned that all living in Baden would be deported to France I feared the worst. I wrote Irma at once that last year I wrote to you about the possibility of a small loan of US dollars. In that case, I would have been able to prioritize the immigration of Irma, Walter and our late mother. Unfortunately I was in no position, due to my illness--- ----Now you dear ones have Deposited the funds for the passage to USA –But I fear too late, since I think by t he time this letter reaches you America will already be at war. Then I will be curious as to when I will see my dear ones again. I must tell you that dear Irma bears a bit of the Fault; even if she did not come along immediately, she would have had several chances afterwards to follow. Here it is said that where the husband is, the wife also belongs. But dear Irma always wanted to be wherever one of her siblings was located. She also wanted to take along a lift van---- Now it is far from me to cast any aspersions on you, my dear ones-----

Ludwig letter of May 14, '40: Expresses thanks to Rita and Martin for the papers they sent to him as well as to Irma and Walter. Reports that a friend of his took them to the Consulate from which h e expects news within two weeks. -----Unfortunately, he says he was unable to go to the Consulate himself, due to recurring sickness. Mentions that dud to low earnings one has to turn around every penny and does an excess of walking which lead to his contracting a blister on his heel, which led to all sorts of infections and complications. Asks them not to write about this to Irma and expresses Hope that Irma and Walter would soon get the summons from the Consulate in Stuttgart. —Says he will write as soon as he gets news from the Consulate in Shanghai.

FOLDER 4: Letters from Emil Rothschild in Tel Aviv; 1940-1941

Emil letter of Jan 25 '40: Writes to sister Rita in New York, telling her for one thing that he has not managed yet to find work. Also asks Rita to forward their mother a letter He encloses which he wrote to her (Ed Note: that letter is NOT in the file). Then discusses at



length which possibilities might exist to help mother get out of Germany, Saying a request for her to come to Israel has been filed some 2 years ago by Elly (his sister); but no use can be made of it since the war broke out in the meantime. Then Emil switches to possible ways for mother to get to the United States, which is again fraught with many obstacles, such as not having a U.S. affidavit nor a waiting number from the U.S., Consulate in Stuttgart. Emil urges Rita to do all in her power to help mother, also mentioning that Rita and Martin, as her children, would have preferred status to file a request for mother's entry into the USA. Emil goes on to mention that he and his wife Lotte, still being in possession of a US affidavit, have forwarded same to the US Consulate in Jerusalem and hopes for positive news from there soon, as he Assumes they will want to go to USA soon, due to his inability to find work in Israel. Mentions that his wife Lotte does have work but at low salary and that anyway he deems it wrong for the wife to support the husband. Emil requests that Rita write him her opinion about securing work in the US. Finally, Emil writes a little about their joint siblings also residing in Israel, i.e. brother Justin, and sister Elly.

Emil letter of Feb 10<sup>th</sup> '41: Writes to Rita in USA, still about getting their mother out Of Germany. Reiterates that there is no way for him to be of help and regrets to hear from Rita that she cannot do anything either. Says, however, there is no use for their exchanging mutual reproaches; suggests that Rita ought to seek help from Max and Hilda (Chicago family). Finally signs off in disgust about the impotence all around. There follows a postscript by Lotte (his wife) of roughly the same message. Describes her work and tells Rita to expect the visit of a close friend, Mr. Fraenkel whom they Have asked to call on her (Rita), as he supposedly has some good advice on how to help mother.

Emil letter of Feb 10<sup>th</sup> '41: This letter to mother Rosa is written jointly by Emil, his wife Lotte and his brother Bruno (all in Israel). They merely acknowledge receipt of mother's letter, telling her that Rita in New York has told them about helpful steps she has now undertaken on her behalf and give assurances to mother that they themselves will do for her all that is in their power.

#### FOLDER 5: Letters from Max and Clara Rothschild from Paraguay; 1940-1941

Letter of April 15 '40: Written to Rita in USA. They praise their good luck for having escaped Germany in time and express hope that the war will perhaps end sooner than expected so that the whole family can once more go on living in peace and quiet. Max talks about his efforts to obtain an entry permit (presumably to USA) in which regard he was expecting some help from a local friend having alleged influence who unfortunately did not pan out, making it necessary to search for a substitute. Also mentions that the political situation in Paraguay is very unsteady, with one revolution following another with resulting changes in ministries and personnel. Mentions having recently heard from mother and Irma (Germany) who still remain hopeful of being able to go to Palestine. Yet, Max expresses doubts as Irma told him that she never got mail from him, though he had written three or four times. Therefore Max asks Rita to mention in her next letter to



Irma that Max and Rita are in steady touch and that Max and family are in good shape. Max tells Rita of a new sideline of work, namely Purchase of eggs for a friend in Asuncion who is running a pastry shop; he says that on the average 100 dozen are sent weekly. Moreover, Max mentions thinking often Of Ludwig in Shanghai and wonders why they (Ludwig and Irma) were so hard to move; expresses hope that these two will still one day again enjoy a life together. There follows a postscript by Clara (his wife), talking mostly about Carola (presumably their small daughter).

Letter of March 2<sup>nd</sup> '41: Written from Paraguay to mother Rosa (in Gurs). Max and Clara are both expressing hope that mother will get the chance of joining them next year in perspiring, explaining that December/January is the hot season in Paraguay. Tells mother that they sent her a package and asks whether it was received? Also tell mother that they received mail from Irma who complains of receiving so little mail from mother Rosa. They also inform mother that they have tried everything to get for her an entry permit (into Paraguay), but complain that there seems to be a new government every week: Once in a while one hears the permit is obtainable, but a few weeks later it is all null and void. They say they are not losing hope since entry into Paraguay is generally permitted for parents. Finally they mention that business is now slow since agricultural products are currently not in demand and other things have become very expensive, but still, they say, they are making a living without having too work took hard. They could do more, but the country is too sparsely populated, limiting the volume of business. The letter ends with more fervent pleas to mother to send news, doing so through Rita (New York).

Letter of April 5 '41: Max and Clara acknowledge with deep sadness the letter they received from Rita (NY) with the shattering news of the death of their mother. There follows a comprehensive eulogy reciting all of mother's lifelong good deeds. There is also an account of all Max and Clara had done to get mother to Paraguay and sorrow is expressed that, despite all efforts from children on all sides, it was not possible to liberate mother from the terror of Gurs. The suggestion is made that all of the children should strengthen their contacts, as otherwise the symbol of the family would be lost for good. Max expresses hope that sometime in his life he will be able to avenge the death of mother, which he totally attributes to the Nazis. He says" Every Indian here is more of a Mensch than the hated Nazis". Then follows a longish portion devoted to economy and financial condition of Paraguay, as well as to ideas of products that could be sourced from the US, now that Germany and Japan are no longer delivering.

Letter of Dec 21<sup>st</sup> '41: Max and Clara are writing from Paraguay to Rita and Martin in NY. Max says he just returned from Asuncion and hastens to advise it is impossible at the present moment to get anybody still into Paraguay. Although one is soothed to hope for later, he (Max) does not have much of it, the more so since he knows that the Jews have mostly been deported to Poland and Russia and that North America has joined into the war. Argentina is not even issuing any visas in transit to Paraguay. Max also inquires as to what news there is about Ludwig in Shanghai and about Irma: Is she still in Bruehl (Germany) or even already in Poland? Hopefully, the war will soon end, as otherwise not a single Jew will be left in Europe. Clara also wants to know whether Rita is getting any

news from the family in Palestine and from Ludwig? She also inquires, whether Martin was perchance drafted into the US Army?

Undated earlier letter: Max and Clara are writing Rita and Martin, thanking them for their letter with enclosed photograph and remarking the Rita looks quite Americanized. They now also confirm a more recent letter with the news that mother was deported to Gurs in the South of France. There follows a rather pessimistic discussion of the overall world situation and the dreadful outlook for Jews. They conclude by saying that mother would have deserved a better retirement.

#### FOLDER 6: Postwar correspondence

Letter of August 15<sup>th</sup> '46: Written by a former apparently gentile friend in Gruensfeld to Rita Loewenberg in NY

Dear Rita, You will be no little surprised to receive news from your erstwhile Hometown. -----Gruensfeld survived the war in good shape, only there are many dead and missing soldiers to be mourned.-----As you will have learned, your dear good mother perished in the South of France (Gurs). Your sister Irma, sad to say, is not alive any more either. I was in constant touch with her by correspondence and that is how I have your address. Suddenly all fell Silent and the rumor got started that Irma is dead. As long as your mother stayed with the Rosenbaums she was OK. The townspeople brought the (Jewish) women supplies to the house at night. She also was at our House several times and I did for her all that I could. So that she would not freeze, I secretly supplied her with coal. It was big excitement here when it became known that the Jews would be taken away from here. All that went very fast ----- And now the main reason for writing you: And now the main reason for writing you: Your mother, in 1939, stored with us Two night tables, a couch, 2 quilts. Likewise Irma left linen with the request to Store it and to notify you. You should then consult with your siblings, as this is communal property.

Letter of July 15, 50: Written by "friend Fritz, Stuttgart" to friend Lina (full handwritten English translation in Folder 6)

Letter of June 16 '57: Written by two persons from Gruensfeld, one unnamed and one called Gretel, to Rita in New York:

Unnamed person expresses surprise and thanks at receiving letter and package from Rita contents of which were found very useful. In actual translation, this person appreciates the coffee and the stockings in the package and she can wear the blue and black Dress "as is", Then she expresses regrets about having portrayed herself in correspondence as "so poor" but "it is really so". Finally says that, if she were still young, she would also like to go to America. The person called Gretel also expresses thanks for Rita's package and inquires about several friends and relatives.



FOLDER 7: Unidentified letters

Letter of Reference dated March 12 '36: Written by retired rabbi David Sander on behalf of Martin Loewenberg, attesting to his excellent reputation and that of his family.

Photostat of picture postcard, undated, showing city hall of Gruensfeld and sent to Martin Loewenberg, NY by his mother with following approx. text (much of which not legible) My dear children have not heard from you in long time. Irma sent me a card about Israel, which is not possible (?). I had them send me a number, 53842, but there is probably nothing you can do. Irma no doubt wrote you in detail and Claere will give you the letter. Cordial greetings and stay well – Your Mother (Uncle Bernhard and Mr. T. Getter add their greetings to the card)

Photostat of partial letter, undated, written by Rosa Schad (presumably to Rita in NY). Reports about the return of a (presumably Jewish) friend who told her that all the Jews that were taken to Riga were gassed Then goes on to report about many mutual friends And acquaintances. About Irma, she says that Irma does not have anyone left in Germany who often looked to her for moral support. The worst was for her that She no longer heard from her husband.

Letter from “Martha” in White Plains, dated Oct 8<sup>th</sup> (No year):

First page of letter is to Rita and Martin and main purpose is to send Rita birthday wishes. Also thanks Rita for having virtually become a dear sister to her, which she will never forget. Martha’s second page is addressed to “Hedwig” mentioning that she had been sick the last few days and apparently waiting in vain for Hedwig’s visit, although she had paid for her carfare. Martha says she doesn’t yet know whether she can make the (apparently planned) get-together the following Friday.

Unsigned letter of 15 Sept '49 apparently written by one of the Rothschild children In Israel to American family – Max, Klara, Martin & Rita: Main purpose is to wish the family Happy New Year. Says it is the first time that there is a chance of conveying these wishes from an organized Jewish State, although there is a long way to go until everything reaches the desired status. Writer believes having ample grounds to feel pride for what has been accomplished and created, so to speak from nothing at all. During a time that the enemy was virtually at the gate it was necessary to build a proper bureaucracy and restore the broken economy and to care for the large inflow of immigrants and to insert them productively into the economy. This is a problem that writer says they cannot accomplish fully without assistance. Talks about the particular problems of agriculture and sufficient shelter, but says the climate is of not insufficient help. Finally mentions the other Israeli siblings who are all doing well.

Undated letter from mother (Rosa Rothschild) to Rita and Martin (forwarded to them By Irma with the remark she forgot to forward it earlier with one of her letters): Contains mostly news about family and friends who all ask to be remembered.



Letter of 15 June '41 from Babette Rosenbaum in Gruensfeld to Rita, New York:  
Excuses herself for delay in writing, due to an accident, Sends condolences on the passing of Rita's mother. Expresses hope that Irma will still have a chance to get out of Germany. Finally thanks Rita for what she has done for Babette's sister.

Undated joint letter from Martin's mother and friends, addressed to Martin: The mother complains about her health saying she has been sick for almost a year with Nervous breakdown, Sciatica etc. Then reports about friends and family dispersed in various parts of the world. Reports she is now living "with Manfred" (apparently Judenhaus) including 4 grandsons and 3 granddaughters. Other writers adding to the letter are Irma and Herbert Selig, as well as Manfred and his wife.

FOLDER 8:

Contains 3 family photographs with handwritten identifications.

Also: Photocopy of engagement announcement of Irma Rothschild and Ludwig Baer, Yellow Workmen's compensation form relative to a claim from Martin, June '38  
Unidentified Invitation to a Circumcision at Memorial Hospitaamaica, NY Apr 15 '41;  
Handwritten list of addresses given to Martin, with addresses of interest to him;  
Newspaper article of 1950 reporting about 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting of the class of 1906/7 in Gruensfeld: Contains account of activities of the meeting (no mention of any Jewish classmates); Seven empty envelopes

FOLDER 9:

Letter (undated) written by Bruno and Esther Rothschild from Israel to the family remaining in Germany. This is the only letter from these particular writers, also making reference to Bruno's sister Elly (Illy) and family, also in Israel.